

# THE SPITFIRE STORY

TOLD BY THOSE WHO DESIGNED,  
MAINTAINED AND FLEW THE ICONIC PLANE



JACKY HYAMS

## Spitfire Story

**Peter R. March**

## **Spitfire Story:**

A Spitfire's Story Dilip Sarkar MBE FRHistS FRAeS, 2025-12-31 Public affection for the iconic Spitfire endures indeed if anything it increases as more of these incredible aircraft are restored to airworthy condition The Spitfire story however is one of people designers engineers pilots groundcrew and more whose lives were touched in some way by this extraordinary machine and such stories are the inspiration for this book Spitfire Mk IA R6644 was built by Supermarine at Woolston and test flown by the famous test pilot Jeffrey Quill on 30 May 1940 Thereafter the aircraft was taken on charge by 5 Operational Training Unit at Aston Down While there it was flown by a number of The Few new replacement pilots converting to type It is likely for example that R6644 was flown by Pilot Officer Richard Hillary who shot down and badly burned became a member of the Guinea Pig Club In his classic memoir *The Last Enemy* Hillary described how 5 OTU's young pilots would fly beneath the arches of the great railway bridge spanning the Severn estuary This inspired the famous scene in the 1980s TV series *Piece of Cake* when Ray Hanna flew Spitfire MH434 beneath a bridge for the cameras Amongst the other pilots known to have flown R6644 at Aston Down are at least two aces On 26 February 1941 R6644 was handed on to 65 Squadron One of the latter's pilots who flew in R6644 was the great ace Flying Officer Brendan Paddy Finucane DFC In April R6644 was taken on charge by the recently formed 308 Polish Squadron On 11 May 1941 Pilot Officer Franciszek Surma was flying R6644 to investigate an unidentified radar plot which transpired to be a friendly Blenheim but was forced to abandon the Spitfire near Malvern Worcestershire owing to an engine fire Surma again one of The Few descended safely by parachute he was reported missing off Dunkirk during Circus 110 on 8 November 1941 This book not only explores the men who flew R6674 throughout its wartime service but also brings the story up to date by detailing the excavation of the Spitfire's crash site in 1987

**The Spitfire story** Alfred Price, 2002 *The Spitfire Story* Peter R. March, 2006 Probably the most famous fighter aircraft of all time the Supermarine Spitfire reigned supreme and unsurpassed from the biplane era to the dawn of the jet age a period that included the Second World War Here is the incredible story of this legendary aircraft from its genesis in the 1930s to its continued presence at airshows and museums today

*Spitfire's Forgotten Designer* Mike Roussel, 2013-03-01 The Supermarine Spitfire was a classic design well known for its efforts in defending British shores during the Second World War However while Reginald Mitchell is rightly celebrated for his original design of the Spitfire the role of Joe Smith in the development of the Spitfire is often overlooked Smith was an integral member of the design team from the earliest days and on Mitchell's death in 1937 he was appointed design office manager before becoming chief designer Smith's dedicated leadership in the development of the Spitfire during the war as well as his efforts on post war jet aircraft deserve their place in history Charting the fascinating history of Supermarine from 1913 to 1958 when the company ceased its operations in Southampton shortly after Joe Smith's death in 1956 this book tells its story through the eyes of apprentices and many other members of Smith's team Marvellous photographs add to the sense of what it was like to work under Joe Smith at the

drawing boards of one of Britain s most famous wartime aviation manufacturers **Spitfire Stories** Jacky Hyams,2018-06-21 The Spitfire is the world s most iconic aeroplane Coming into its own during the Battle of Britain it became famous during the Second World War as the only plane that could match the enemy fighters in the sky Yet even today the history of the Spitfire contains many hitherto hidden or little known stories of the men and women behind the plane not only the gifted creators and inventors who brought the Spitfire to life or the brave fighter pilots from many countries who triumphed in battle but also the thousands of other people whose lives were affected by their personal connection to it engineers ground crew factory or office workers and their families The Spitfire Story recounts the memories and stories of these people from the birth of the iconic Spitfire in the 1930s to the present day

**The Story of the Spitfire** Ken Delve,2016-01-06 In a combat career that spanned the entirety of the Second World War the Spitfire earned a reputation as the iconic fighter that friend and foe alike wanted to fly Affectionately known as the Spit the aircraft played a vital part in helping to lift the morale of the British public at home during the Second World War where many a donation of pots and pans was made to support Spitfire production Yet it was the RAF pilots responsible for flying the Spitfire in combat who knew respected and loved this aeroplane the best In this book author Ken Delve re examines the Spitfire s reputation using a wealth of important primary materials including combat records official trial reports and the personal accounts of those who flew the aircraft The Story of the Spitfire charts the combat evolution of arguably the most important aerial fighting machine of the Second World War

*Aircraft Year Book* Fay Leone Faurote,1959 **Fight for the Sky** Douglas Bader,2006-05-01

The only book written by the legendary legless ace the double amputee World War II fighter pilot immortalized by the film Reach for the Sky In Fight for the Sky Douglas Bader tells the inspiring story of the Battle of Britain from the viewpoint of The Few Using superb illustrations he traces the development of the Spitfire and Hurricane and describes the nail biting actions of those who flew them against far superior numbers of enemy aircraft As an added bonus other well known fighter aces including Johnnie Johnson Laddie Lucas and Max Aitken contribute to Douglas s book no doubt out of affection and respect This a really important contribution to RAF history by one of the greatest and certainly the most famous pilot of the Second World War

**Spitfire** John Nichol,2018-05-17 THE SUNDAY TIMES NON FICTION BESTSELLER WHSmith NON FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR 2018 The best book you will ever read about Britain s greatest warplane Patrick Bishop bestselling author of Fighter Boys A rich and heartfelt tribute to this most iconic British machine Rowland White bestselling author of Vulcan 607 As the RAF marks its centenary Nichol has created a thrilling and often moving tribute to some of its greatest heroes Mail on Sunday magazine The iconic Spitfire found fame during the darkest early days of World War II But what happened to the redoubtable fighter and its crews beyond the Battle of Britain and why is it still so loved today In late spring 1940 Nazi Germany s domination of Europe had looked unstoppable With the British Isles in easy reach since the fall of France Adolf Hitler was convinced that Great Britain would be defeated in the skies over her southern coast confident his

Messerschmitts and Heinkels would outclass anything the Royal Air Force threw at them What Hitler hadn't planned for was the agility and resilience of a marvel of British engineering that would quickly pass into legend the Spitfire Bestselling author John Nichol's passionate portrait of this magnificent fighter aircraft its many innovations and updates and the people who flew and loved them carries the reader beyond the dogfights over Kent and Sussex Spanning the full global reach of the Spitfire's deployment during WWII from Malta to North Africa and the Far East then over the D Day beaches it is always accessible effortlessly entertaining and full of extraordinary spirit Here are edge of the seat stories and heart stopping first hand accounts of battling pilots forced to bail out over occupied territory of sacrifice and wartime love of aristocratic female flyers and of the mechanics who braved the Nazi onslaught to keep the aircraft in battle ready condition Nichol takes the reader on a hair raising nail biting and moving wartime history of the iconic Spitfire populated by a cast of redoubtable heroic characters that make you want to stand up and cheer The Story of My Life Mary Ashton Rice Livermore,1899

**The Spitfire Smiths** Rod Smith,Christopher Shores,2008-09-22 A posthumous autobiography culled from a partial manuscript and notes by Canada's World War II fighter ace and his equally heroic brother In late 2001 Rod Smith died tragically at his own hand leaving behind a part written autobiography and many notes His friend the historian Christopher Shores took on the task of seeking to complete the story as nearly as possible to how he believed Rod had wished it to be Rod and his brother Jerry both became Spitfire pilots during World War II leaving their home in Canada only to find themselves purely by chance serving together in the defense of Malta during 1942 Jerry had already gained some fame as the first pilot ever to land a Spitfire on an aircraft carrier Both showed immediate promise as fighter pilots but by the end of that year Jerry was dead last seen chasing a German bomber out to sea while Rod had become an ace and would receive the D F C Two years later serving as a squadron commander in Western Europe he claimed six Messerschmitts down within a single week and was involved in the shooting down of the first German jet aircraft to fall to British Commonwealth fighters He ended the war as one of Canada's highest scoring aces with more than 13 victories to his credit After the war he qualified as both an aeronautical engineer and a barrister His untimely death was a great loss not only to his family and friends but to the wider world of aviation history as well This book containing many diary entries from each of the brothers is a testament to them

*Spitfire: The Inside Story* David Curnock,2014-10-01 The Supermarine Spitfire is the most iconic fighter ever to have worn the markings of the Royal Air Force This legendary aircraft was a vital part of the UK's air defenses during the Battle of Britain and served throughout the war in many different roles all over the world This hardback book looks at the role of the aircraft and features over 70 illustrations of the Spitfire It also includes cutaways that show the structure of the aircraft that demonstrate what made this such a unique aircraft Spitfire, the Story of a Famous Fighter ,1961 The Story of My Life Mary Ashton Livermore,1898 **Spitfire!** Dilip Sarkar,2019-09-30 A really excellent detailed comprehensive and moving history of 19 Squadron RAF during the Second World War from the author of Arnhem 1944 Clash of Steel As a child Dilip

Sarkar was fascinated by the haunting image of an anonymous RAF Spitfire pilot Taken minutes after landing from a Battle of Britain combat this was Squadron Leader Brian Lane DFC the commander of 19 Squadron based at Fowlmere Deeply moving was the discovery that in 1942 Brian was reported missing after a futile nuisance raid over the Dutch coast During the mid 1980s Dilip began researching the life and times of both Brian Lane and 19 Squadron forging close friendships with many of the unit's surviving Battle of Britain pilots and support staff Nearly thirty years later sadly all of the survivors are now deceased but Dilip's close relationship has provided a huge archive of correspondence and interviews in addition to a unique photographic collection Furthermore the author a retired police detective has thoroughly investigated the life and death of Squadron Leader Lane This completely new Spitfire covers everything we would ever need to know about such a unit during the critical pre and early war period the social political aviation and military history all in one volume emphasizing the human experience involved and the stories of casualties With an immense photographic collection many published here for the first time this book is destined to become a classic The most thorough book about any squadron in RAF service during the Battle of Britain an impeccable source of information and a gripping story Most Highly Recommended Firetrench The Spitfire Story David McWhinnie,2001 Aircraft Accident/incident Summary Report United States. National Transportation Safety Board,1994 Elder Jone's Pork Barrel and Other Stories Emma Seevers Jones,1899 Spitfire Alfred Price,1977 Spitfire Gerard S. Morris,2000

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